

NEWS

For immediate release

NINE NEW DANCERS JOIN LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL

Montréal, August 11, 2010 — Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal is delighted to welcome nine new dancers for the 2010–2011 season. **Kristin D’Addario, Sarah Kingston, Sahra Maira, Eline Malègue, Sam Colbey, Andrew Skeels** and **Hikota Taira** will join the **corps de ballet**; **Mahomi Endoh** and **Valentine Legat** have been taken on as **apprentices**. The company has also announced a series of promotions.

KRISTIN D’ADDARIO, SARAH KINGSTON, SAHRA MAIRA AND ELINE MALÈGUE, CORPS DE BALLET

American **Kristin D’Addario** trained at Laguna Dance Theatre (1990–2000), the School of American Ballet in New York City (2000–2002) and Miami City Ballet School (2002–2003). A member of the Miami City Ballet corps de ballet under Edward Villella from 2003 to 2010, she has performed leading roles in George Balanchine’s *Rubies*, *The Four Temperaments* and *Concerto Barocco* as well as in works from the classical repertoire.

Vancouver-born **Sarah Kingston** graduated with distinction in 2007 from Canada’s National Ballet School (Artistic Director: Mavis Staines) in Toronto. From 2008 to 2010, she apprenticed with Leipzig Ballet in Germany before joining the company’s corps de ballet. Leipzig’s repertoire includes Paul Chalmer’s *Swan Lake* (after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov), Balanchine’s *Concerto Barocco* and *Symphony in Three Movements*, Yuri Vamos’s *Romeo and Juliet*, Glen Tetley’s *Rite of Spring*, Jerome Robbins’ *The Cage*, and Uwe Scholz’s *Seventh Symphony*, set to Beethoven’s symphony of the same name.

Born in Toronto, **Sahra Maira** studied and graduated from Kirov Academy in Washington, D.C. From 2000 to 2003, she danced with the Universal Ballet Company under Oleg Vinogradov in Seoul and from 2003 to 2010, was a demi-soloist with the Hungarian National Opera and Ballet (Budapest) under Gábor Keveházi. She has performed in both repertoire classics and neo-classical ballets, as well as in works by Hungarian choreographers Gyula Harangozó, László Seregi and Lilla Pártay.

Eline Malègue was born in France. She trained at École de danse de l’Opéra de Paris (2001–2007) before completing San Francisco Ballet’s internship program (2007–2009). She has appeared in a number of ballets staged by SFB Artistic Director Helgi Tomasson, including *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker* and *Giselle*. From 1998 to 2001, she also took part in many national and international ballet competitions. During the 2009–2010 season, she danced with the Madrid-based Ballet Victor Ullate.

SAM COLBEY, ANDREW SKEELS AND HIKOTA TAIRA, CORPS DE BALLET

Hailing from Adelaide, Australia, **Sam Colbey** trained at Victoria College of the Arts in Southbank and completed the Queensland Ballet Professional Year program in 2004. He danced with Queensland Ballet under François Klaus from 2004 to 2007, before guesting with Tivoli Pantomime Theatre in Copenhagen and Stadttheater Bremerhaven in Germany. In 2008, he joined the Stephan Thoss Company in Wiesbaden, performing in a number of works by Thoss.

After graduating from Boston Ballet School in 2003, U.S.-born **Andrew Skeels** danced with Ballet Internationale Indianapolis under Eldar Aliev and the Festival Ballet Providence under Mihailo Djuric. From 2006 to 2010, he danced with the Colorado Ballet (Artistic Director: Gil Boggs), whose repertoire is both classical and contemporary.



Born in Okinawa, Japan, **Hikota Taira** graduated from London's Central School of Ballet in 2001. From 2002 to 2009, he danced with Hong Kong Ballet, where he was promoted to coryphée in 2007. He has appeared in numerous repertoire pieces, notably David Allan's *Cinderella*, Ronald Hynd's *The Merry Widow*, Rudi van Dantzig's *Romeo and Juliet*, Stephen Jefferies' *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker* and Balanchine's *Theme and Variations* and *Rubies*.

MAHOMI ENDOH AND VALENTINE LEGAT, APPRENTICES

Born in Nara, Japan, **Mahomi Endoh** studied at Mami Ballet Land from 1993 to 2005, then at Alberta Ballet School under Nancy and Murray Kilgour from 2005 to 2009. Since completing her training, she has danced with Northwest Ballet and Ballet Victoria.

Born in Brussels, **Valentine Legat** began her training at the city's Centre international de danse Lilian Lartelier /École de Ballet Marly. From 2005 to 2007, she studied at the Royal Ballet School of Antwerp under Kimmy Lauwens. From 2007 to 2010, she was a corps de ballet member and eventually soloist with the Vanemuine Theatre (Artistic Director: Mare Tommingas) in Tartu, Estonia, where she performed in works by Pär Isberg and Oksana Titova.

PROMOTIONS

Les Grands is delighted to announce the following appointments: demi-soloist **André Silva** has been promoted to **soloist**; **Xuan Cheng**, corps de ballet, to **soloist**; and corps de ballet members **Aline Schürger** and **Annie Shreffler** to **demi-soloists**.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal now consists of 36 dancers. The company's women dancers are **Rachel Rufer** (principal dancer); **Callye A. Robinson** (first soloist, on maternity leave); **Xuan Cheng**, **Émilie Durville**, **Robin Mathes** and **Vanesa G. R. Montoya** (soloists); **Marie-Ève Lapointe**, **Alisia Pobega**, **Aline Schürger** and **Annie Shreffler** (demi-soloists); **Kristin D'Addario**, **Emma Garau Cima**, **Sarah Gibson** (on maternity leave), **Sarah Kingston**, **Graziella Lorriaux**, **Sahra Maira**, **Eline Malègue**, **Bryna Catherine Pascoe** (corps de ballet); **Valentine Legat** and **Mahomi Endoh** (apprentices). Its male contingent consists of **Hervé Courtain** and **Jeremy Raia** (first soloists); **Edi Blloshmi**, **Jean-Sébastien Couture**, **Robert Deskins**, **Jérémy Galdeano**, **Marcin Kaczorowski**, **Raul Salamanca** and **André Silva** (soloists); and **Sam Colbey**, **Russell Lepley**, **Ye Li**, **Kenji Matsuyama Ribeiro**, **Andrew Skeels**, **Hikota Taira** and **Karell Williams** (corps de ballet).

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal extends its congratulations to the promoted dancers and a warm welcome to its new members.

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